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Lots of great things to do in February at the right price

THE ROAD TO PLAY

With Halifax having a colder than normal winter, it can be awfully tempting to stay inside and hibernate during February's frightfully chilly weather. But with lots of great events happening in Halifax's downtown, finding the motivation to go out has never been easier.

For a guaranteed good time, Winnipeg's JP Hoe will be playing a show at the Carleton (1685 Argyle St.), widely considered to be one of the province's best live music venues. "Tickets are only $10," says the Carleton's website. "If you don't like it, I'll give you your money back — simple."

Co-owner Mike Campbell describes Hoe as one of the best songwriters in the country. "If he was living in Halifax rather than Winnipeg," says Campbell, "he would probably be right up there with Joel Plaskett as one of the city's favourite artists."

For sports fans, the Halifax Metro Centre (1800 Argyle St.) is home to both the Halifax Mooseheads and the Halifax Rainmen. The Moose are enjoying a phenomenal season and sit atop the Q standings, and are considered one of the best teams in the Canadian Hockey League (CHL). With future NHL draft picks on the roster like Nathan MacKinnon, Jonathan Drouin and Zach Fucale, Halifax won't see another team this strong for years. The Moose play another four home games this February.



The Discovery Centre. PHOTO: DISCOVERY CENTRE

The Rainmen, in conjunction with the Discovery Centre (1593 Barrington St.), are offering a special package that will get the whole family out of the house. Called the Family Slamdunk, the package includes admission to the Discovery Centre for two adults and two children, as well as four tickets to any Rainmen game this season for only $49 plus tax. You have to hurry though — the package is only valid until early March. The Rainmen play two more home games this February.



The Importance of Being Earnest. PHOTO: TIMOTHY RICHARD PHOTOGRAPHY

February is also a gourmand's delight with the Savour Food & Wine Festival taking place. As part of this, many great Halifax restaurants are offering three-course, prix fixe menus. Some of the restaurants offering these exceptional values are Bistro Le Coq (1584 Argyle St.), the Five Fishermen Restaurant & Grill (1740 Argyle St.) and Chives Canadian Bistro (1537 Barrington St.).

For theatre lovers, Oscar Wilde's classic play, The Importance of Being Earnest, will be playing at Neptune Theatre (1593 Argyle St.) until Feb. 17 and it will be followed by the Glace Bay Miners' Museum, which will begin its stand on Feb. 26.



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Tracking crime online

HRM police say website could prevent theft PAGE 3

FINDING HIS FORM

FRK BACK PRODUCING LIKE HE CAN FOR MOOSE PAGE 26



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WEEKEND
February 15-17, 2013
News worth sharing.



ALL DOGS GO TO…

Brittni Milligan embraces her new dog, Louis, after he was delivered from California in a motorhome from the Animal Rescue Corps. on Thursday. Close to 50 dogs will find homes in Nova Scotia from the rescue. Story, page 4 JEFF HARPER/METRO

Education budget to increase

Critics unimpressed.
Liberal, PC leaders say more is needed to cover costs of special-needs students

The minister of education has announced more funding for teachers and special-education resources next year, but opposition members say it's not enough.

At a news conference on Thursday, Ramona Jennex said the budget for Nova Scotia school boards will increase to $1.047 billion in 2013-2014, about $3.3 million more than in 2012-13.

"We know we must do things differently to help our students," Jennex said.

The increase of about three-tenths of a per cent from last year ensures no permanent instructors will lose their jobs and 170 new teachers will be hired, Jennex said.

However, about 330 teachers are retiring at the end of this school year.

Jennex said fewer teachers are needed because of declining enrolment. The government predicts a loss of 2,300 students overall next year.

The department will protect the areas of greatest enrolment decline by subsidizing their funding.

The budget also allows for 25 new program-support staff and 15 more teacher assistants.

Quoted

"My foremost concern is the child in the classroom."
Minister of Education Ramona Jennex

"We are going to see more people hired in our system to support our students with significant needs," Jennex said.

Provincial Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil said the announcement was an admission by the NDP that $65 million in cuts to education in the last few years has "gone too far."

"It nowhere covers what it costs to deliver special education. Those are the realities our children are facing in the classroom today," McNeil said.

Conservative leader Jamie Baillie said more needs to be taken out of administration and put into the classroom.

"We want to see real change," Baillie said.

The Halifax Regional School Board will receive $5.1 million more than last year, which is "good news for Halifax," said board chair Gin Yee.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

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North end incident. Police plead for tips as new details of sex assault are released

Halifax police are releasing more details about a disturbing sexual assault in Halifax's north end on Wednesday morning, and are imploring anyone who can help identify the person responsible to come forward.

At about 2 a.m. on Wednesday, police say the 21-year-old victim was walking on Agricola Street between West and Cunard streets. Police say a man standing on the sidewalk called out to her and said he would phone her a taxi.

On Thursday, police issued more details about what happened. They say the victim was lured into a laneway between Sarah and Woodill streets and forced to have sexual intercourse with the suspect.

"We do want to impress upon the public the severity of this... We want to be very explicit to what happened," police spokeswoman Theresa Rath said.

"We're very concerned about this crime. We don't see crimes like this very often."

The woman was eventually able to break free and fled the area. She went home and then to hospital where she was treated and released.

Police describe the suspect as a white man, about 24 years old, five-foot-10, with medium-length light brown hair and some scruff on his face. He was wearing jeans and a black jacket.

Rath said a team of investigators is working the case and police have canvassed the neighbourhood for tips.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact police at 490-5020 or Crime Stoppers.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO



Deputy Chief Bill Moore of the Halifax Regional Police runs the media through the new Halifax Police Crime Mapping system on Thursday. If the website takes off with the public, police will include more types of crimes over longer time periods. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Track Halifax crime online

Mapping site now live. Police hope residents will use new tool to track neighbourhood crimes



RUTH DAVENPORT
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

A new online tool for residents could lead to more active crime prevention, police say.

The crime-mapping website will plot reported thefts of vehicles, robberies, break-and-enters and assaults on a map of HRM, with incidents updated every day.

"In my mind, this is about prevention," said Deputy Chief Bill Moore of the Halifax Regional Police. "Those (crimes), in our opinion, are the ones where people can make some decisions that may reduce the potential that they're a victim."

The crime-mapping initiative has been under development for the past year and emerged from the mayor's roundtable on violence.

Check it out

- Visit the crime-mapping website at maps.halifax.ca/crimemapping.

Reported incidents can be searched by type or by community for the past day, and for four and seven days.

Moore said this is the pilot phase, and the website will likely be upgraded to display other crimes over longer time periods.

"I think we're successful if we can get data directly into the hands of the public," he said. "The next measure will be if we see people are starting to use it, we're getting feedback to say, 'I like this, I don't like that, I'd like to change this.'"

Moore said the crime-mapping site didn't require any new money.

Software developed by a Florida town was provided to HRM free of charge, and HRM staff were able to launch it using existing applications and resources.



A whole lot of puppy love arrived on Valentine's Day

Happy ending. Cross-continent hunt for new home brings dozens of rescued dogs to Halifax


RUTH DAVENPORT
ruth.davenport@metronews.ca

Valentine's Day brought something super-special to dozens of dog lovers in Halifax.

Nearly 50 dogs were delivered to a crowd of anxious foster families and adoptive owners waiting in Dartmouth Thursday to give the animals a new lease on life.

"I've been fighting back the tears," said Scotlund Haisley, president of the U.S.-based Animal Rescue Corps. (ARC). "These dogs, whose future was uncertain weeks ago, have been given a chance ... because of the Maritimes and all the good people here."

The dogs are the first group coming from an overcrowded shelter in Palm Springs, Calif., and include 15 rescued from a hoarding situation in January.

They arrived in Halifax on a mobile home dubbed the "Sunshine to Maritimes Express," after eight days travelling across the continent, cared for around the clock by ARC members.

Volunteers with three local rescue groups took over at a Dartmouth facility with cheers and tears, shepherding the dogs gently from the confines of the RV to the arms of their new caregivers.

By the numbers

5,800 km

The approximate distance from Palm Springs, Calif., to Halifax, N.S.



Sandra Clare of Atlantic Small Dog Rescue excitedly carries out two Chihuahua mixes. JEFF HARPER/METRO



Scotlund Haisley, president of the Animal Rescue Corps., carries out Max, who was rescued as part of a hoarding situation in Palm Springs, Calif. JEFF HARPER/METRO

"It's the first time I've ever fostered, so I'm extremely excited," said dog owner and veterinary student Hayley Inkpen, smiling non-stop as pit bull Bowser leaned in for a standing tummy rub. "I am really worried about giving him up."

East Coast German Shepherd Rescue, Atlantic Small Dog Rescue and Maritime Pit Project sprang into action when ARC's local shelter coordinator Tiffany Sullivan put out the call for homes, and foster placements have been found in Halifax and Prince Edward Island for all 48 dogs.

Quoted

"(The dogs) are so sweet and they've been getting so much coverage, I think they'll all find homes really quickly." Hayley Inkpen, Maritime Pit Project volunteer and foster owner

The pooches have a variety of medical issues, from severe mange to wounds suffered from fighting each other in the confines of a one-bedroom bungalow, but most wagged trustingly as complete strangers gathered around to greet them.

Maritime Pit Project director Laura Smith said with such good natures, permanent homes won't be hard to find.

"Most of them already have applications, so it's just a matter of finding the right fit," she said, joking over the fights that might develop for some of the extra-appealing pups.

Haisley praised Maritimers for the unconditional offer of help.

"I've never seen a community filled with this much compassion since Hurricane Katrina," he said. "The outpouring of commitment that the Maritimes has offered these animals resembles my experience when we were pulling 800 animals out of New Orleans."



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Jury duty ‘not to be ignored’: Judge

Jury selection. Nine absentee jurors summoned to court, one person fined $50

HALEY RYAN
haley.ryan@metronews.ca

A Nova Scotia Supreme Court judge stressed the importance of jury duty Thursday, fining one of the nine people who missed the selection for a high-profile murder case last fall.

Justice Glen McDougall questioned the absentee jurors one at a time to decide whether their excuses for missing jury selection in September for the murder trial of Chaze Lamar Thompson we satisfactory.

“Jury duty is not simply a duty, it’s a privilege,” McDougall said to those summoned Thursday morning.

“You denied yourself the opportunity to participate in the justice system, but also jeopardized the right to a fair trial for the defendant.”

Thompson was eventually convicted of the 2009 shooting death of Dartmouth cab driver Sergei Costin last October following a lengthy jury trial.

Three people said Thursday they were planning to attend the Sept. 10 selection date, but forgot over the summer months.

Two showed up on Sept. 4 for jury selection which was postponed, but said they were given incorrect information and told to come back nearer the end of the month.

All of the absentee jurors will have their names added to the selection list for trials in the future.

McDougall said he was satisfied with most of the explanations, and one fine was issued.

“It’s a big deal. It’s nothing to play around with,” said Kathy Veniot, who received the $50 fine.

Veniot said she deserved the fine, and urged those called to jury duty to read all documents carefully for their next appearance date.

Halifax jury co-ordinator Wayne Corcoran assisted the judge with details about the jury absentees.

Originally, 15 people were summoned, but five were excused before the court date and another person couldn’t be located.



Halifax jury co-ordinator Wayne Corcoran at Nova Scotia Supreme Court on Thursday. HALEY RYAN/METRO

Oland’s

Man locked in beer trailer, has a few cold ones

A 45-year-old man is facing charges including theft and property damage after an incident at Oland’s distribution centre in Bayer’s Lake Thursday morning.

Police say workers saw a man inside a trailer truck used to transport beer, and after seeing him steal some product, locked him inside.

Police were then called and he was arrested.

The man, according to police, smashed the inside of the trailer and also helped himself to some beer. METRO

Child Exploitation Unit

Man, 28, charged with child-porn offences

Police have charged a 28-year-old Halifax man with child-porn offences after a search Thursday of an apartment in the city.

At about 11:30 a.m., members of the Integrated Internet Child Exploitation Unit searched an apartment in the 2100 block of Harvard Street and arrested a man and seized a computer.

Alexander (Sasha) Karl Leiter is charged with one count of possession of child pornography and one count of breaching conditions. METRO

St. Margaret’s Bay Road

Cops find wanted man from Halifax halfway house in Timberlea

Halifax police say they have located a man missing from a Halifax halfway house.

Michael David Patterson was arrested on Thursday at an apartment building on St. Margaret’s Bay Road in Timberlea at noon time.

The 29-year-old left a Halifax halfway house Monday and didn’t return. METRO

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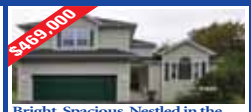

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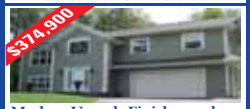
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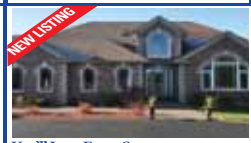
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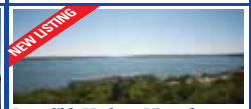

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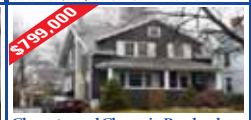

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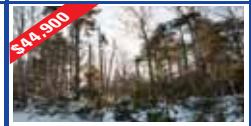
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Deal in lawsuit against orphanage close, lawyer says

Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children. Class-action involves about 140 former residents who alleged abuse at home over 50-year period

A class-action lawsuit against the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children over abuse allegations is close to being settled, a lawyer for the plaintiffs said Thursday.

Ray Wagner said "substantive issues" — including financial terms and a plan by the Halifax orphanage to provide an apology — have been agreed upon.

"There's just dotting the I's and crossing the T's left to do," he said in an interview.

The plaintiffs are still pursuing a class-action lawsuit against the provincial government, and Wagner says that will now become the sole focus of the legal battle.

He says the clients are pleased.

"They're very happy," he said. "They feel vindicated after all these years and all these years of aggressive litigation."

Tony Smith, a former resident of the home, said the imminent settlement shows the claimants' cases have legitimacy.

"This is long overdue," he said. "It should have been done a long time ago.... Better late than never."

He said he is also waiting to see precisely how a public apology is worded.

"It has to acknowledge the fact there has been a wrong done to us," he said.

Documents filed by the home's executive director, Veronica Marsman, in Nova Scotia Supreme Court in January had denied any knowledge of systemic abuse at the facility.

She also said in the court documents that it may have been the children themselves who physically, sexually and mentally abused each other.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No comment

The lawyer who represents the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children did not return messages.



Dancing duo part of One Billion Rising

Marguerite Drescher dances with her daughter Emse at Victoria Park in Halifax on Thursday. The pair was dancing with others as part of the One Billion Rising event, a worldwide movement aimed to stop violence against women. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Military pensions

Most veterans for $888M deal

A lawyer for veterans who reached a settlement with Ottawa over military pension clawbacks says most of the plaintiffs support the $887.8 million deal.

Dan Wallace, who spoke before a settlement-approval hearing in Halifax, says his law firm received 270 emails from veterans, 233 of which back the arrangement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Highfield Park Drive

SJA breaks ground on new HQ

St. John Ambulance has officially broken ground for a new headquarters in Dartmouth. The event took place Thursday morning at the site of the new 10,000-square-foot, $3.2-million facility on Highfield Park Drive. St. John has outgrown its former home on Slayter Street, which it had occupied since first opening in 1985. METRO

Classes may resume

Union at St. F.X. recommends deal

Striking faculty at St. Francis Xavier University have reached a tentative agreement that would bring students back to class on Monday morning.

Union president Peter McInnis said the executive is recommending approval of the deal. A vote of the 400 faculty and academic staff will be held Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Travel. Florida flip-flops on rule forcing Canadians to get 2nd driver's licence



Driving near Key Largo, Florida.
ANDY NEWMAN/FLORIDA KEYS NEWS BUREAU/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

State officials in Florida scrambled Thursday to reassure anxious Canadians that they don't need to worry about new laws requiring them to have an International Driving Permit to motor around the Sunshine State.

Changes are in the works to legislation requiring that all visitors with foreign licences must have an international permit issued by their country of residence in addition to a valid licence from home, a spokeswoman with Florida's Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles said Thursday.

"I'm not sure exactly how we're going to end up working it, but we're going to determine how to modify it to accommodate the concerns of Canadians and others," said Kirsten Olsen-Doolan.

"The main issue is public safety, not to give anybody a hard time or make it difficult to come visit."

The quiet implementation of the regulations on Jan. 1 — which apply to any vehicle, including rentals — resulted in many Canadians being caught off guard.

"I had no idea. We've been coming down here for years and never had a problem," said David Whitford, a Norwich, Ont., resident currently in Cape San Blas, Fla., who realized he'd technically been driving around illegally for the past few weeks.

Florida officials have said the law was passed so police are not faced with foreign licence documents in languages they can't understand.

Earlier in the day the department issued a statement saying it learned its new requirement might violate the Geneva Convention on Road Traffic.

"The Florida Highway Patrol will defer enforcement of violations of the amended statutory section until a final determination of the alignment of the amendment with the treaty can be made," the department said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lost data. Bureaucrats 'sorry' for privacy breach

We're sorry and we're trying to ensure it never happens again.

That was the message Thursday from senior federal bureaucrats responsible for the loss of personal information belonging to more than half a million Canadians.

Employees at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada lost an external hard drive and USB key in November, resulting in a massive privacy breach.

"Sensitive personal information was stored on unencrypted portable storage devices and not properly secured. This should not have occurred," said Ian Shugart, a deputy minister with the department. "I apologize for these incidents."

A trio of bureaucrats from the department appeared before a House of Commons committee Thursday to give their account of the events.

Most of the people affected participated in the Canada Student Loan program between 2000 and 2007.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Refugee claims

Mexico added to 'safe' country list

Mexico, a country awash in drug-related violence, is no longer considered by Canada to be a major source of genuine refugees.

It was among eight "safe" countries added Thursday to a controversial list now used by immigration to fast-track claims.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney has said the changes will help cut through fraudulent claims clogging the system.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Emergency drill

Quebec cancels zombie invasion

The Quebec government has scrubbed plans for a zombie-themed training exercise.

A symposium on civil security had been planning to use a hypothetical undead attack to test emergency preparedness, a popular tactic meant to get officials to think outside the box.

News of the plan had elicited guffaws this week, alongside some complaints about wasteful spending.
THE CANADIAN PRESS



A march for the missing, murdered and marginalized
People take part in the March For Missing and Murdered Women on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper criticized for telling victims to 'get on' and report abuse

RCMP officers accused. Human-rights group says prime minister is missing fear of reprisal

The human-rights watchdog that documented allegations of police abuse against aboriginal women in British Columbia is taking Prime Minister Stephen Harper to task for telling victims to just "get on" with reporting abuse.

Samer Muscati, a Canadian researcher who was involved in compiling the report released Wednesday, said Harper missed the whole point — that aboriginal women and girls are often too traumatized to co-operate with police.

"Those comments ignore the fear of reprisal those victims have," Muscati told The Canadian Press in an interview Thursday.

The report, from a New York group called Human Rights Watch, accuses RCMP officers of abusing aboriginal women and girls in northern B.C., and also includes an allegation of rape.

The alleged incidents were uncovered as part of a broader investigation into charges of systemic neglect of missing and murdered aboriginal women along B.C.'s Highway 16, nicknamed the "Highway of Tears."

Harper said the government has asked the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP to look into the allegations but he urged those connected with the report to simply come forward.

Controversial comments

"If Human Rights Watch ... is aware of serious allegations involving criminal activity, they should give that information to the appropriate police so they can investigate it.... Just get on and do it."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, to the House of Commons on Wednesday in reference to allegations that RCMP officers have abused aboriginal women and girls in British Columbia.

Muscati said Human Rights Watch tried to brief Harper and three cabinet members in advance of the report's release, but they were rebuffed.

Muscati said the group has no intention of sharing the information it has about the abuse allegations, as Harper urged them to do.

"We have to stand by the victims who have asked us not to identify them because they're terrified of police retaliation," he said.

"It's missing the point of the report. If he met with us and reviewed the report, he would know that's an unrealistic request given that our report is about fear and insecurity that plague aboriginal women and girls."

The core recommendation of the report is that the federal and B.C. governments participate in a national commission of inquiry into the matter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Track star charged with murder of his activist-model girlfriend

'Blade Runner.' Model Reeva Steenkamp was shot at the home of paralympic superstar Oscar Pistorius

South African paralympic sprint runner Oscar Pistorius was charged Thursday with the murder of his girlfriend, who was shot inside his home; a stunning development in the life of a national hero known as the Blade Runner for his high-tech artificial legs.

Reeva Steenkamp, a model who spoke out on Twitter against rape and abuse of women, was shot four times in the predawn hours in the house, in a gated community in the capital, Pretoria, police said.

Hours later, after undergoing police questioning, Pistorius left a police station accompanied by officers. He looked down as photographers snapped pictures, the hood on his grey workout jacket pulled up, covering most of his face.

His court hearing was originally scheduled for Thursday afternoon but has been postponed until Friday to give forensic investigators time to carry out their work.

South Africans were shocked at the killing. But while Pistorius captured the world's attention with his Olympic quest, police said he was involved in a recent history of problems. Police spokeswoman Brigadier Denise Beukes said the incidents included "allegations of a domestic nature."

"I'm not going to elaborate on it, but there have been incidents (at Pistorius' home)."

"No matter how bad the situation was, Oscar always stayed calm and positive," said his former coach Andrea Giannini. In November, Pistorius also found himself in an altercation with a local coal mining millionaire over a woman, media have reported. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beauty with a law degree

Reeva Steenkamp, 30, campaigned against rape and violence against women. Thursday morning she was to give a talk at a Johannesburg school. The next day she was going to wear black to protest the brutal rape and mutilation of a 17-year-old.

- The freckled, leggy blonde appeared in international advertisements and was South Africa's face of Avon.



An undated photo of Reeva Steenkamp. She was killed Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Oscar Pistorius leaves a police station Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oscar Pistorius

From podium to police cell

Since captivating the world with his groundbreaking Olympic trip to London, Oscar Pistorius' life seemed like an extended victory lap.

More than 230,000 Twitter followers have been given a glimpse into a life of fast cars and luxury holidays as the hero was feted by an adoring public. The "Blade Runner" has fame that came from becoming the first amputee to compete at the Olympics and Paralympics. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Double-amputee Oscar Pistorius after winning the 400 metre T44 at the 2012 Paralympics in London. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Blast from the past

Pocket pets: Tamagotchi to launch app

Tamagotchi is re-hatching as an app. Bandai America Inc. and Sync Beatz Entertainment are hoping to revive the electronic-pet craze of the 1990s with a new mobile app launching for Android devices.

The app, which is called Tamagotchi L.i.f.e., duplicates the egg-shaped plastic toy that became a must-own sensation much like Beanie Babies, Tickle Me Elmo and Furby.



The new Tamagotchi L.i.f.e app was launched Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Parting ways

Balsillie has sold BlackBerry shares, filing shows

Jim Balsillie once re-mortgaged his house to help build the BlackBerry company, but by the end of last year, the former co-CEO had cleaned out any shareholder stake he still owned. A document filed with U.S. regulators shows that by Dec. 31, 2012 he no longer held shares in the company formerly known as Research In Motion.

The documents don't reveal how much he got for his stock, or when the shares were sold, but it illustrates how quickly Balsillie shed his stake in the company.

In January 2012, Balsillie resigned from the co-CEO position, alongside co-founder Mike Lazaridis. They took director roles, but Balsillie completely exited the firm hardly two months later.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Merger gives birth to U.S. mega-airline

$11B deal. New carrier formed by US Airways, American Airlines will carry more passengers than any other in world

American Airlines and US Airways agreed Thursday to merge in an $11-billion deal that would create the world's biggest airline.

The combined carrier will be called American Airlines and be based in Fort Worth, Texas. It expects to have $40 billion in annual revenue and offer more than 6,700 daily flights to 336 destinations in 56 countries.

The deal is a coup for smaller US Airways Group Inc., and was driven by the persistence of its CEO, Doug Parker, who will run the combined airline. Parker sought a merger almost as soon as American parent AMR Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection in November 2011.

As Parker pushed ahead, creditors forced AMR's management to consider the value of a merger compared with a plan for an independent American. Eventually they concluded that the best return for stakeholders, and the best chance to compete with bigger rivals United Airlines and Delta Air Lines, came from a merger.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

- DOLLAR 99.88¢ (+0.06¢)
- TSX 12,721.79 (-53.49)
- OIL $97.31 US (+30¢)
- GOLD $1,635.50 US (-$9.60)

Natural gas: $3.17 US (-14¢)
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[2] We will pay the basic title insurance fee, processing fee and one discharge fee (up to $300 maximum). Offer excludes mortgage prepayment charges that you may have to pay. Minimum advance $50,000. [3] The interest rate will fluctuate with the Prime Rate and is subject to change at any time without notice. These rates can be changed, withdrawn or extended at any time without notice. Residential mortgages are offered by Royal Bank of Canada and are subject to its standard lending criteria. ®/™ Trademark(s) of Royal Bank of Canada. RBC and Royal Bank are registered trademarks of Royal Bank of Canada.



Buffett will have some ketchup on the side

Billionaire Warren Buffett is dipping into the ketchup business as part of a $23.3-billion deal to buy H.J. Heinz Co., uniting a legend of American investing with a mainstay of grocery store shelves. The company, based in Pittsburgh, also makes Classico pasta sauces, Ore-Ida potatoes and Smart Ones frozen meals. Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway is partnering on the deal with 3G Capital, the investment firm that bought Burger King in 2010. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Auto safety rules

Ottawa mandates shoulder belts for rear centre seats

All new cars built in Canada as of September 2015 will have to come equipped with shoulder safety belts for the rear centre seat, a change that's part of an alignment of auto-safety regulations in Canada and the United States.

Car makers must also use female and child-sized dummies in their crash tests, says Transport Canada, and those tests must be conducted at higher speeds for front-end crashes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Matrix AWD & XRS models shown

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*Offers valid on 2013 Corolla, 2013 Matrix. Leasing/financing plans from Toyota Financial Services. Financial example: $20,000 at 0% per annum equals $277.77 per month for 72 months. C.O.B. is $0 for a total obligation of $20,000. **2013 Corolla CE (Model 8HE28EP-A) lease based on a one kilometre 60 month walk away lease, 100,000 kms and a lease rate of 0.9%. First lease payment due on delivery. Total lease obligation of $11,580 with $0 down. Purchase option price of $8,906. Lease includes a maximum of $1,465 for Freight and P.D.E. Taxes, license, insurance and registration not included. 'MSRP of $16,795 (Model KR4EEM) is for the Toyota Matrix FWD. Offers valid on retail delivery of new unregistered 2013 Toyota vehicles when purchased/leased, registered and delivered between February 1, 2013 and February 28, 2013. Individual dealer may sell/lease for less. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. Offers subject to change/cancellation without notice. See your participating Toyota Dealer for details.

SORRY KARDASHIANS, YOU AIN'T NO MOON GODDESSES



THE LIST
Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Un, deux, trois.** U.S. President Barack Obama reacted to North Korea's nuclear test Tuesday by promising firm action on what he views as Kim Jong-un's "highly provocative act." The prez claims the move blatantly threatens U.S. security and international peace. After all, America already has all the nuclear weapons the world will ever need.

2 **Missionary position.** We bid farewell to Pope Benedict XVI, a sports fan obviously named after Super Bowl XVI when the 49ers defeated the Bengals. This week, the papal "Giant" gathered the "Cardinals," some of whom might be "Saints," and ask the "Angels" to decide which "Patriots'" cups will run over. Vatican spokesman, Father "Lombardi" says that Benedict is keeping the "book" close, but that he has spent the last eight years assembling a team of veterans, still young enough to compete, who he believes can go all the way. So there.

3 **Games people play.** Jacques Rogge, president of the International Olympic Committee, has agreed to discuss the decision to drop wrestling from the Games, but let's face it, who cares? I mean, we're not talking about a *real* sport like table tennis or synchronized swimming.

4 **Fortunate sons.** Wonton Food Inc., largest U.S. producer of fortune cookies, has ceased printing intimate messages like "The evening promises romantic interest" because some parents complained they were inappropriate for their children. OK, folks, if this offends you, my first suggestion is don't have kids. And if you choose to disregard this wisdom, well, good luck with school, the Internet, HBO or raising a child in general.

5 **Space marketing.** The SETI (search for extraterrestrial intelligence) institute and International Astronomical Union started a public poll to name the recently discovered moons orbiting Pluto. The guidelines strictly specify names of underworld characters in Greek or Roman mythology, which disqualifies my entries of Kim and Khloe, Snooki and JWoww, and Tito and Jermaine, but many names from Harry Potter still apply.

6 **Alternate-reality TV.** I dreamed I was at a party full of good-looking, talented, rich hobbyists who regularly have outrageous sex with extraordinarily attractive people. One would intermittently raise a glass to praise the other publicly for the value of their output. I found myself looking in while the distance between us grew, panic setting in just as I awoke, relieved that I hadn't missed the Grammys.

7 **Capital duplicity.** Notorious infidelity website Ashley Madison released its list of Canadian cities with the most cheating spouses. The hands-down winner was Ottawa, where about one out of every 20 residents are members. This sparked an outcry among citizens who were devastated to discover there is such dishonesty in our nation's capital.

8 **Hear me roar.** This week in 1975, at the height of women's lib, Linda Ronstadt had her first and only solo No. 1 U.S. hit with You're No Good. Ladies throughout America expressed solidarity as they enthusiastically sang the chorus to their men before defiantly leaving them. Just in time for Valentine's Day.



Kim, Kourtney and Khloe Kardashian can't keep up with Pluto's new moon name requirements, recent reports suggest. CHRIS PIZZELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

British army deploys the toy



SWNS.COM

Warfare technology

Spy chopper fits in palm of your hand

It looks like a toy helicopter but one commander has called it "a game-changing piece of kit" in modern warfare.

This pocket-sized aircraft, Black Hornet Nano, has been unveiled as the British army's latest weapon against the Taliban. The surveillance drone has three cameras fitted inside its nose to allow troops to spy on enemies from afar.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Army's viewpoint

"Previously, we'd have sent soldiers forward to see if there were any enemy fighters hiding inside a set of buildings. Now we're deploying a Black Hornet to look inside compounds. It's so small and quiet that the locals can't see or hear it."

Maj. Adam Foden, commander of the Brigade Reconnaissance Force at Camp Bastion, Afghanistan



The drone relays video and still images to a handheld control terminal. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

War casualties

Drones have killed children: UN

Drones are now a mainstay for the military but they are not without controversy.

U.S. attacks by manned and unmanned aircraft have killed "hundreds" of children, according to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The UN body said casualties were "due notably to reported lack of precautionary measures."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

If you could have one superpower, which would it be?



Twitter

@richardzurawski: Heads up again. Sunday/Monday is looking wet and windy. 40mm rain, 5 cm snow winds gusting to 100kmh with Low stalling again over NS

@kaileyfleet: So many boys running around the streets of Halifax with bouquets of flowers #toooocute

@Janecaulfield: I had a donair for lunch. Now, all I can smell is donair. It's like being back in #Halifax.

@Urban_Leaves: #Dartmouth could thrive with a lot more student residents, if @hfxtransit didn't leave them stranded in #Halifax after group work. #moving

@becca_05: So so soooo happy to hear the Midtown chair auction raised $22,000 for veterans programs in Halifax!!! #goodcause #awesomeplace

metro
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Sarah Polley's Stories We Tell is just one of the more recent great made-in-Canada films. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN



Films of the true North strong and free

Celebrating the maple leaf. The Reel Guys take a look at their fave movies made by Canucks on National Flag of Canada Day

Richard: Mark, Canada has a rich tradition of documentary film making, so I thought I'd start with one of my recent favourite Can Con films, a doc by Sarah Polley. Stories We Tell is a frank look at a family secret. For years Sarah's family wondered why she didn't look like her father, actor Michael Polley. In the film she examines the story of her parentage, but what could have been a self-indulgent home movie is, instead, a riveting look into the dynamics of a group of individuals bound together by birth and circumstance. What's grabbed you lately?

Mark: As it turns out, she doesn't look much like her actual father, either! Yes, it's a good movie, although the last 20 minutes seemed too abstract for the rest of the film. I don't think you can talk about Canadian film without talking about French-Canadian film. I'm especially thinking of the great Denys Arcand, whose films play like a Quebecois version of Woody Allen's neurotic New Yorkers, and some of the coming-of-age-themed movies like C.R.A.Z.Y and Léolo, which I think is a masterpiece.

RC: Masterpiece is a big word — literally, it's 11 letters! But it's also applicable in the case of the movies you mentioned. While we're waving that flag I'd also add in Hard Core Logo, Bruce McDonald's long hard look at a punk band's life and death on the road. It's one of the best-loved Canadian films of all time and an all-time favourite of mine, regardless of origin. Less known, but also worthwhile, is the sequel HCL2, an eye-popping followup that captures the spirit of the first film but is also fresh and surprising.

MB: There are hidden gems throughout our cinematic history. One of my favourites, Richard? A Fan's Notes, from 1972. Based on the Frederick Exley book of the same name, it's a dark comedy about a middle-aged guy who realizes he will always be a fan, but never a player, in everything he does.

RC: A few years after A Fan's Notes I saw The Silent Partner, a heist movie about a mall Santa with plans to rob a bank. It's an entertaining movie with two lasting images: the newly built Toronto Eaton Centre and Christopher Plummer in drag!

MB: And if you watch Goin' Down The Road from 1970, the Royal York Hotel is the tallest building on the Toronto skyline!

Synopsis

The most romantic day of the year has come and gone, and while the rest of you are finishing off heart-shaped boxes of chocolates, the Reel Guys are celebrating National Flag of Canada Day by rounding up some of the best Canadian films.



Drama



Amour

Director. Michael Haneke

Stars. Jean-Louis Trintignant, Emmanuelle Riva

The very definition of a small movie tackling a big subject, Amour takes a brutally hard look at aging. Retired music teachers Georges and Anne have their life thrown into flux after a medical condition leaves Anne incapacitated. Devoted to his wife, Georges refuses to check Anne into a home, opting instead to care of her himself. True to its director's reputation for creating bleak tableaus, Amour is neither precious nor judgmental of Georges decisions; rather Haneke lets his characters suffer the consequences of their decisions in a heart-wrenching film. **IAN GORMELY**

No Safe Haven for Josh Duhamel

"There is a lot of pressure to live up to the success of these previous movies, but we try not to think about that.

"If I tried to do what Ryan Gosling did in the Notebook I'd be pulling my hair out. If we try and replicate that in any way, it's a trap."

Josh Duhamel on starring in Safe Haven, a romantic thriller based on the novel by Nicholas Sparks, who also wrote The Notebook
NED EHRBAR, METRO WORLD NEWS











Should kids be in the Oscar race?

Award season analysis. With 9-year-old Quvenzhane Wallis in the running for a best actress statue, experts debate if children are deserving of coveted awards

Beasts of the Southern Wild star Quvenzhane Wallis is an actress of talent, poise and maturity well beyond her years.

She was only five years old when she auditioned and six when she played the part of Hushpuppy, a little girl of fierce strength and resourcefulness living with her daddy in a squalid slab of Louisiana swampland known as The Bathtub. She was just a regular kid from nearby Houma, La. — she'd never even acted before, and actually pretended to be a year older than she was to be considered.

Now, at only nine, Quvenzhane (Kuh-VAHN-zuh-nay) is the youngest-ever actress nominee at the Academy Awards. Altogether, Beasts has four nominations at the Feb. 24 ceremony, including best picture.

While her presence is undeniable, Quvenzhane's nomination raises the question: How young is too young to compete for an Oscar, the film industry's highest honour, which has eluded performers with decades more experience and acclaim? Is a child really capable of acting, with craft, or do these performances reflect uncanny instinct?

Director Benh Zeitlin doesn't think nine is too young for such an honour. Zeitlin, who is up for a best-director Oscar himself with just his first feature, praised Quvenzhane for the incredible sense of self she displayed from the beginning. But he also recalled one day when she seemed to be struggling on set, and he took her aside to ask what was wrong.

"'I know. I can't snap it today. Normally I can snap it,'" he remembered her saying.

"The fact that she had an internal sense of when she's in character, when she's getting the emotions right and feeling it, is really special even in experienced actors, but especially someone of her age to have that sort of self-awareness."

Justin Henry, who remains the youngest-ever Oscar nominee in any category for 1979's Kramer vs. Kramer, said that in some ways it's a purer form of acting at this age.

Henry was just six years old and had never acted when a casting director came to his Rye, N.Y., school looking for someone to play Billy, the little boy at the centre of Dustin Hoffman and Meryl Streep's custody battle.

He was seven when he shot the film and eight when he was nominated for best supporting actor. He lost to 78-year-old Melvyn Douglas for Being There. (Tatum O'Neal is still the youngest Oscar winner in any category; she was 10 when she earned the supporting-actress Oscar for 1973's Paper Moon.)

A voting Academy member, Henry said he thought it was "awesome" to see Quvenzhane get nominated for the acclaimed Fox Searchlight indie drama,



Quvenzhane Wallis is the youngest-ever actress nominee at the Academy Awards. ALL PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No place for a kid

Thelma Adams, contributing editor at Yahoo! Movies and a longtime awards prognosticator, points out that Shirley Temple was already well on her way to a career by the time she was six, the same year she earned an honorary juvenile Oscar. "With (Quvenzhane's) performance, it's kind of a life force. They've captured this wonderful little girl ... but it's not an acting performance," says Adams. "To have her nominated, it's not good for her, no matter how great she was in the movie — and she was terrific — but this red carpet thing is a grind."



Justin Henry, right, seen here with Dustin Hoffman in 1979, was the youngest-ever Oscar nominee.

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Bayers Lake
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Beautiful Creatures (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Fri-Thu 12:40-3:30-7:10-10
Broken City (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:25-6:15
Escape From Planet Earth (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 1-4-6:20-8:50
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-6:40-9:10
A Good Day to Die Hard (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Fri-Thu 12:10-3:50-7-9:25
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 1:40
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 3:55-7:15-9:30
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:35
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 4:25-8
Identity Thief (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12-12:20-3:20-3:40-6:30-6:50-9:15-9:35
Life of Pi (PG) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:15-6:05
Mama (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 3:10-8:55
Parental Guidance (G) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Sun 1:35-4:15-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Mon 1:35-4:15-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Tue 1:35-4:15-7:05-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Wed 1:35-4:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo, Thu 1:35-4:15-7:05-9:40
Parker (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 3:05-9
Safe Haven (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Sun 1:10-4:05-7:30-10:10 Dolby Stereo, Mon 1:10-4:05-6:55-10:10 Dolby Stereo, Tue 1:10-4:05-7:30-10:10 Dolby Stereo, Wed 1:10-4:05-6:20-7:30-10:10 Dolby Stereo, Thu 1:10-4:05-6:20-10:10
Side Effects (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:15
Silver Linings Playbook (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Tue 12:05-3-6-9:05 Dolby Stereo, Wed-Thu 12:05-3-9:05
Warm Bodies (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 12:50-3:15-6:45-9:50
Zero Dark Thirty (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12-3:45-7:50

Imax
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake, 902-876-4800

A Good Day to Die Hard: The IMAX Experience (STC) Dolby Stereo, , No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-4:10-7:20-9:45

Oxford Theatre
6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

Amour (STC) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 3:30-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:20
Love Story (STC) Sat-Sun 1

Park Lane
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

Beautiful Creatures (STC) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 3:30-6:40-9:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, , No Passes Sat 12:45-3:30-6:40-9:25 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sun 12:45-3:30-6:40-9:25 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 6:40-9:25 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 3:30-6:40-9:25 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 6:40-9:25
A Good Day to Die Hard (STC) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 4:15-7:10-9:45 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:35-4:15-7:10-9:45 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 7:10-9:45 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 4:15-7:10-9:45 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 7:10-9:45
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Sat 9:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 9:10
Identity Thief (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 3:50-6:50-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:05-3:50-6:50-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 6:50-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 3:50-6:50-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 6:50-9:35
The Metropolitan Opera: Rigoletto Live (STC) Sat 1:55
Quartet (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 4:10-6:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 6:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 4:10-6:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed 6:35
Safe Haven (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 3:55-7:9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:15-3:55-7-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 7-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 3:55-7-9:40 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 7-9:40
Side Effects (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 3:45-6:55-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 1:20-3:45-6:55-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 6:55-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 3:45-6:55-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 6:55-9:30
Silver Linings Playbook (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 3:40-6:30-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 12:55-3:40-6:30-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 6:30-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 3:40-6:30-9:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 6:30-9:15
Warm Bodies (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 4:05-7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat 7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sun 1:40-4:05-7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon 7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Tue 4:05-7:15-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Wed-Thu 7:15-9:50

Lower Sackville
760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022

Beautiful Creatures (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 6:30-9:15 , Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 2:05-6:30-9:15 , Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15
Escape From Planet Earth (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 7:05 , Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 2:30-7:05 , Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 7:05
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 9:15
A Good Day to Die Hard (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri 6:55-9:30 , Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 3-6:55-9:30 , Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:55-9:30
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 7:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 2:10-7:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 7:10
Identity Thief (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:40-9:05 , Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 2-6:40-9:05 , Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:40-9:05
Safe Haven (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 6:20-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 2:40-6:20-8:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 6:20-8:50
Side Effects (STC) , Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 6:15-9:25 , Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 2:50-6:15-9:25 , Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 6:15-9:25
Warm Bodies (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 9:20

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145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing
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Beautiful Creatures (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri 3:30-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50-9:40
Escape From Planet Earth (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri 3:45-6:35 Dolby Stereo, Sat-Sun 12:40-3:45-6:35 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Thu 3:45-6:35
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri 4:15-9 Dolby Stereo, Sat-Sun 1:50-4:15-9 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Thu 4:15-9
A Good Day to Die Hard (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Fri 3:50-4:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:10 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Sat-Sun 1:20-1:40-3:50-4:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:10 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Mon-Thu 3:50-4:30-7-7:30-9:40-10:10
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri 4:35 Dolby Stereo, Sat-Sun 2 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Thu 4:35
Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Sat 7:40-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Sun 4:35-7:40-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Thu 7:40-10:15
Identity Thief (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri 3:40-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:25-9:55 Dolby Stereo, Sat-Sun 12:50-1:30-3:40-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:25-9:55 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Thu 3:40-4:10-6:45-7:15-9:25-9:55
Mama (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 9:10
The Metropolitan Opera: Rigoletto Live (STC) Dolby Stereo, , No Passes Sat 1:55
Quartet (PG) Dolby Stereo, Fri 3:35-6:15 Dolby Stereo, Sat-Sun 1-3:35-6:15 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Wed 3:35-6:15 Dolby Stereo, Thu 3:35
Safe Haven (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri 4:05-6:45-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Sat-Sun 12:45-4:05-6:45-9:35 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Thu 4:05-6:45-9:35
Side Effects (STC) Dolby Stereo, Fri 3:50-7:10-10:05 Dolby Stereo, Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:10-10:05 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10-10:05
Silver Linings Playbook (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Thu 6:20-9:20
Warm Bodies (14) Dolby Stereo, Fri-Sat 4:25-7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Sun 1:35-4:25-7:20-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Mon-Thu 4:25-7:20-9:50

Truro
20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

Beautiful Creatures (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, , No Passes Fri 6:30-9:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, , No Passes Sat-Sun 2:50-6:30-9:15 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, , No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-9:15
Escape From Planet Earth (STC) Fri-Thu 7:15-9:40 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:30
A Good Day to Die Hard (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, , Digital, No Passes Fri 7:10-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, , Digital, No Passes Sat-Sun 3-7:10-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, , Digital, No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:35
Identity Thief (STC) Digital, Fri 7-9:30 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:55-7-9:30 Digital, Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Parker (14) Digital, Fri 6:40 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:35-6:40 Digital, Mon-Thu 6:40
Safe Haven (STC) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri 6:45-9:45 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Sat-Sun 2:40-6:45-9:45 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Mon-Thu 6:45-9:45
Side Effects (STC) Digital, Fri 6:55-9:50 Digital, Sat-Sun 2:45-6:55-9:50 Digital, Mon-Thu 6:55-9:50
Warm Bodies (14) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, Fri-Thu 9:25

Bridgewater
349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Beautiful Creatures (STC) No Passes, Fri 6:20-9:05 No Passes, Sat 2:40-6:20-9:05 No Passes, Sun 2:40-7:10 No Passes, Mon-Thu 7:10
Escape From Planet Earth (STC) Fri 6:15 Sat 2:30-6:15 Sun 2:30
Escape From Planet Earth 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 8:30 Sun-Thu 7
A Good Day to Die Hard (STC) No Passes, Fri 7:10-9:30 No Passes, Sat 3:30-7:10-9:30 No Passes, Sun 3:30-8 No Passes, Mon-Thu 8
Identity Thief (STC) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat 3-6:40-9:10 Sun 3-7:30 Mon-Thu 7:30
Quartet (PG) Fri 6:50-9:15 Sat 2:50-6:50-9:15 Sun 2:50-7:20 Mon-Thu 7:20
Safe Haven (STC) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat 3:20-6:30-9:20 Sun 3:20-7:50 Mon-Thu 7:50
Side Effects (STC) Fri 7-9:25 Sat 3:10-7-9:25 Sun 3:10-7:40 Mon-Thu 7:40



Hugh Bonneville is lord of manor

Downton Abbey.
Actor reflects on the show's massive success


Hugh Bonneville plays the patriarchal Lord Grantham. DAN HALLMAN/INVISION/AP

The third season of Downton Abbey ends this Sunday with a bang. But even with that, the larger point remains that after Sunday's Masterpiece Classic (airing at 9 p.m. Eastern on PBS), viewers must suffer Downton withdrawal until next season.

But until then, we'll have our memories. And what a season this has been! The valet, Mr. Bates, was sprung from jail and a trumped-up murder charge to begin married life with his bride, the plucky lady's maid Anna. Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham (played by Hugh Bonneville), has gotten Downton Abbey back on its feet financially with an able assist from his son-in-law and presumptive heir, Matthew Crawley. Matthew wed his true love, Lady Mary Crawley. But another of Robert's daughters, Lady Sybil, died tragically during childbirth.

Through it all, Robert's mother Violet, Dowager Countess of Grantham (played by Maggie Smith) delivered a barrage of withering, hilarious rejoinders to virtually every narrative twist.

The 49-year-old Bonneville, even firmly planted in a 21st-century Manhattan hotel, looks to the manor born. Nonetheless, his roles have strayed some distance from the lofty likes of Robert Crawley. For instance, Bonneville has been affable and bumbling in Notting Hill and Mansfield Park, and downright villainous in The Commander.

And coinciding with his Downton duties, he also played the addled Head of Deliverance for the Olympics commission in Twenty Twelve, a BBC miniseries that spoofed preparations for the London Olympics.

"There are people who think I've been doing nothing for 25 years, and then suddenly I get this role on Downton Abbey," Bonneville says with a laugh. "But I've had a really lovely time for 25 years! I've played everything from Shakespeare to sitcoms to period dramas to modern serial killers."

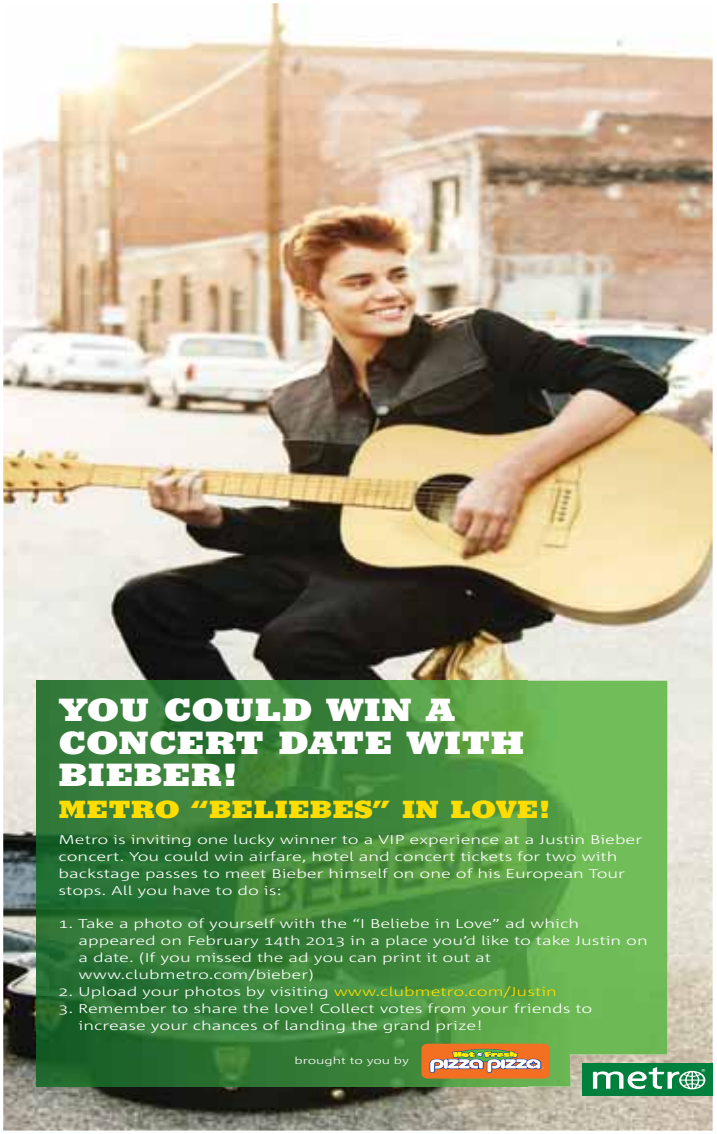
Of course, Bonneville realizes that Downton is a good bet for the lead citation in his obituary. He has finally acknowledged it: 'This show is a cultural phenomenon, not just a fad.

And he has theories why: the savoury writing by series creator Julian Fellowes, the cast is splendid, production values are luxurious and the premise remains rich with possibility.

"Underneath it all, this series is about romance rather than sex, it's about tension rather than violence, and it's about family — both the literal family and the staff as family," says Bonneville. "It explores the minutiae of those social structures, the nuances of the system as to whether someone's in or out."

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Is Alexa Ray Joel slowly morphing into Minka Kelly?



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Pictures popped up recently of Alexa Ray Joel, the 27-year-old spawn from the famous union between Uptown Girl Christie Brinkley and Billy Joel, and they are looking a little, well, suspicious. But don't listen to what your head is telling you (and I know your head is screaming, "girlfriend got plastic surgery!"). No, read what Brinkley has to say about her daughter's changing looks.

The former supermodel went on Anderson Live on Thursday to defend her daughter, saying her transformed appearance isn't from a doctor, but rather she's "blossomed."

"She's stepping out into the world, she's doing things and now (her critics) can't even accept it — it's like, 'Oh she's too beautiful, she bought it all, it's all plastic surgery,'" she said. Brinkley says the only surgery Joel has ever "bought" is "a little tweak of her nose."

The whole thing is totally Freud-worthy (it must be rough to have Christie Brinkley as your mother no matter how cute you are) but since this is a gossip column and not a graduate-level course on psychotherapy, let's just say that if I were Minka Kelly, I'd be slightly disturbed.



Rihanna ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

RiRi losing friends

Rihanna has received her share of criticism for reuniting with Chris Brown, who was arrested for assaulting her in 2009. And it turns out the rekindled romance is even costing her some friendships. Rihanna and Katy Perry "aren't tight anymore because Katy doesn't approve of Rihanna dating Chris Brown," a source tell Us Weekly. Perry and beau John Mayer reportedly steered clear of Rihanna and Brown at the Grammys last weekend.



Alyson Hannigan

Hannigan gets restraining order

How I Met Your Mother star Alyson Hannigan has been granted a temporary restraining order against John Hobbs, a New Hampshire man who has repeatedly threatened the lives of Hannigan, her husband, Alexis Denisof, and their children, according to E! News. Hobbs, who was recently discharged from a mental hospital, must stay at least 100 yards away from Hannigan and her family and must refrain from posting about them online. "I still can marry you tomorrow. I can kill you tomorrow too," one Facebook posting by Hobbs last month reads. "It doesn't end. Even after death."

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Liquid Assets

Dynamic duo: Eggs and wine



LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
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Sharing my page with Rick Mercer this week has brought out my inner rant.

It's a rant inspired by the union of booze and the most important meal of the day — breakfast.

Now, I don't mean having a few Jäger bombs with your bagel before hitting the road to work. That's why the Italians invented the skinny cappuccino. I'm talking weekends, holidays, snow days. Those mornings where your keys stay in your coat and you can sip and savour a bevy over a plate of home cooked goodness like, say, scrambled eggs.

What makes brunch, lunch and dinner so special when it comes to an adult liquid partner pairing?

I say that breakfast has lived in its shadows for too long, and it's time we all find an opportunity to break out the stemware in the a.m.

Even with their jiggly-feel, eggs are easy on many wines. Keep things white, unoaked and fruit-forward.

Think wines made with the riesling, sémillon or sauvignon blanc grape. Kim Crawford 2011 Pinot Gris ($19.95 to $22.99) is another good choice. Rich, textured and tropical, it makes a fine companion for any egg dish — morning, noon or night.

PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.

Dining on the road with Mercer

Q&A. The Rick Mercer Report star shares his fave meals and places to eat across Canada, as well as a recipe for his go-to dish

DAN CLAPSON
life@metronews.ca

Everyone's favourite Canadian funnyman Rick Mercer doesn't really sit still. His popular show, The Rick Mercer Report, sees him on the road, popping in and out of many of Canada's diverse cities.

I caught up with Rick in between his busy travel schedule to find out what he eats on the road.

What's the best part about being able to travel across Canada regularly?
It's such a big country but I never get tired of it at all. I can't say enough (about) it. I love getting to know a part of the country. I actually do view the entire country as the "town" I live in. I am all over the country all the time and I love it.

Since you travel so much, do you find it hard to eat healthy on the road?
It's extremely difficult, to no fault of the travel, quite frankly. If you're hitting the road at 6 a.m., there are very few options. There was a decade of those terrible egg sandwiches, which everyone enjoys while they're eating but then regrets immediately after.

What's the staple 'quick meal' for you when you're on the road with your show?
The staple on the road is the Tim Hortons' ham and cheese. I cannot tell you how many ham and cheese sandwiches have been consumed by my team and I while we're on the road. It's shocking how many of those we consume for lunch! At least it's not a burger and fries. You can't do that everyday, otherwise it's over!

If you are stuck in a lay-over, what fast food joint do you succumb to when you're hungry with nothing to eat?
Well, that depends on the airport. I do know every airport in the country! There is no scenario where I am in Montreal's airport and not have a Schwartz's!

One of the best meals you've had was at...
Da Maurizio in Halifax. It's still, to this day, the best Italian I've eaten in this country. Yes, I know those are fighting words!

If you had to pick a Canadian city's airport to live in for a week, which one would it be?
Vancouver has a tremendous airport with great food. I believe the (luggage) carts are free too, which I always admire in an airport. It's just a comfortable place. I could live there!

If you are at home, what do you eat?
I'm a big scrambled eggs guy at (home). Also, I think 90 per cent of the eggs you get in a fast food restaurant or while you're travelling are not particularly very good — probably because they were made the day before or something.



At home, Rick keeps it simple with scrambled eggs. SUBMITTED

Rick's Scrambled Eggs

1. Whisk together the eggs, half and half, black pepper, paprika and salt.
2. Melt the butter in a large pan on medium heat. Once melted, add the egg mixture to the pan and let cook for 2 minutes.
3. Using a spatula or spoon, push egg mixture from the sides of the pan into the centre and let cook for another 2 minutes. Repeat until all of the egg mixture has cooked through.
4. Stir in any grated cheese or optional ingredients and serve.

- 6 large eggs
- 2 tbsp half and half
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp butter
- Optional ingredients: Freshly grated Parmesan, chopped tomatoes, sliced scallions, etc.

RECIPE COURTESY OF RICK MERCER







Have a few gaps in your schedule you're looking to fill?
Whether you're hoping to dance, drink or just relax, check out these hot upcoming events.



MIX OF SIX
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca



A Penny for Your Thoughts: SAY FAREWELL to the PENNY

Meet Renee Gruszecki from COIN COIN Designs. Bring her your pennies and she'll make some of them live on in her art. Argyle Fine Art welcomes you Saturday from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to mourn the loss of our lucky penny with hot chocolate, cookies and some culture. So get out your pennies and perhaps place an order with Renee for your very own COIN COIN ring or pendant.



Dukes up: Extreme Cage Combat Carnage

Ever felt like stepping into a fenced-in cage to find yourself toe-to-toe with an opponent who's ready to tear you apart? Yeah, neither have I, but it's fun to watch. The main event is local MMA fighter Gavin Tucker taking on Lyndon Whitlock for the ECC 145-pound title on Saturday night at the Olympic Community Centre. This card will also feature Jerome Wilson making his pro debut against Matt Heim. Visit TicketPro.ca.



Sip slowly: Rare & Fine Wine Tasting

The Savour Food & Wine Festival presents an evening for the most picky of taste buds. Wine enthusiasts can give their palates a night of bliss with the opportunity to taste more than 20 wines never before available in Nova Scotia. This Friday night only, wines rated 90 points and above by major wine publications will be brought together for a tasting like no other.
Visit edining.ca/rare-and-fine-wine.asp.



Sublime: Flamenco Valentine

For those who don't share my Valentine's Day tradition of a bloody action film and a box of chocolates to myself, you may be interested in taking your loved one to Alderney Landing Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. for a dance and music fantasy. Sublime, a Flamenco Valentine, is a fiery and theatrical dance and music fantasy by Maria Osende Flamenco Company, sure to ignite the flames of passion for lovers and lovers of life. Visit alderneylanding.com.



Give it a tri: Tri-the-Oval II

Calling all weekend warriors and athletic overachievers. This Sunday marks the second annual Tri-the-Oval Winter Triathlon. The challenge: a five kilometre skate, six kilometre snowy mountain bike, and 4.2 kilometre run. Not sure about doing all three events? Grab a couple friends and split up the madness. Good exercise, good laughs, good weather and of course some cookies. Visit atlanticchip.ca.



Last chance: The (Post) Mistress

This weekend marks the end of Neptune Theatre's The (Post) Mistress. Crowd favourite Martha Irving brings Marie-Louise to life as the long-time postmistress in the fictional town of Lovely, Ont. in a time when people still send handwritten letters. Remember letters? Ask your parents. Marie-Louise knows all the stories and gossip of the community, and she divulges the town's secrets to the audience using 12 charming, funny, tenderhearted songs. Visit neptunetheatre.com.





Book of love. Bible that survived ocean crossing holds a family's history

It was always there: on a table, her counter or carefully laid open on a chair.

The worn black book with a cross in fading gold was one of her most treasured items. In fact, it was her only real possession after having lost everything she owned when she made the long journey from Jamaica to England and, at last, Canada, in the '70s.

Her luggage never made the trip to Canada, lost somewhere on route or perhaps left behind in England. The bible was the one true reminder of where she came from — and that was just fine with my grandma.

Yellowed on some pages, faded on others, in a way it was a representation of her life that began as a bright, ponytail-wearing child in Jamaica who had weathered severe adversity but still had a great story to tell.

It was a book her mother gave her, passed down from her mother before her. It was the only thing that survived her flight across the Atlantic Ocean.

The first words in the book were in the family tree that was found on the first page and hardly legible any more, having been written in pen so many years ago. Her mother, my great grandmother, who was born in 1916, stands as the first entry. Added names throughout the decades in different coloured ink play out like a trail to the living and preserve memories of family members passed. Family I will never know, but who hold sway in my grandmother's life (how long that life has so far been, my grandma refuses to tell. A lady never tells).

When my grandmother immigrated to Canada, she reasoned moving closer (at least geographically) to Jamaica from England and to a better job was the right decision.

As much as the cold, wet weather made her knee ache sometimes, it was her home, and the place where she'd met my grandfather — a Jamaican expatriate, like herself, looking for better opportunities away from the tiny island where they grew up.

In the end, her life in Canada was better than she would have expected. She worked hard and eventually purchased a modest place to call home and later gave birth to a cherub-faced daughter (my mother) in her adopted country.

She visits Jamaica as much as her health will allow her, but won't likely return for good. If she ever feels homesick she never lets it show, but that could be because her book, with the cross in fading gold and barely legible family tree, is always within arm's reach.

TAKARA SMALL, METRO



Takara Small and her grandmother. PROVIDED

Soaking in serenity on Salt Spring Island

Black history month. Historic photo evokes the peace found by many black immigrants in British Columbia



EVELYN C. WHITE
For Metro Canada

The stirring 1963 I Have A Dream speech by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. stands as a landmark in the black freedom movement in North America.

But more than a century before King's plea for racial justice, a group of blacks, weary of discrimination, left the U.S. and settled on B.C.'s Salt Spring Island, located in Georgia Strait between Vancouver Island and the Mainland.

Today, direct descendants of the black pioneers still reside in the pastoral landscape also hailed as a vibrant artist colony.

I was thrilled to discover Salt Spring's black history when fate brought me to the island about a decade ago.

The intriguing saga begins with Sir James Douglas (1803-1877) who, in 1858, was appointed the first provincial governor of B.C.

The son of a black woman from Barbados and a Scottish planter, Douglas, in need of skilled workers to meet a gold frenzy in the region, urged a band of blacks in California to move to B.C.

At the time, a federal Fugitive Slave Act that poised them for possible return to bondage threatened free blacks. Dispirited by an increasingly hostile climate, several hundred blacks accepted Douglas' invitation and sailed north to Victoria.

By 1859, a core group of the blacks had built log cabins on nearby Salt Spring Island, the ancestral grounds of the Coast Salish people. There, they hunted cougars, cultivated farms and cleared the deeply forested terrain for future immigrants.

Salt Spring's black pioneers included Jim Anderson, who built the community's first public picnic site on his property. Proficient on the trumpet, he routinely roused neighbours with a brisk blast of Reveille.



Salt Spring Island pioneer Jim Anderson poses for a photo on his canoe with one of the Whims children at Walker's Hooke in the early 1930s. JESSE BOND/COURTESY SALT SPRING ARCHIVES

For more on black history

- To read the three winning essays in RBC's student competition, go to metronews.ca and click on Black History Month

I was captivated by the image of a nattily dressed Anderson and a black boy in a canoe that appears in my book Every Goodbye Ain't Gone: A Photo Narrative of Black Heritage on Salt Spring Island.

Our African forebears packed like sardines in the holds of slave ships, many North American blacks have a pained relationship with boats and water. This discomfort has been compounded, over the years by our wounding experiences with segregated beaches, swimming pools and "coloured" drinking fountains.

The serenity that the pair exhibits in the photo marks the peace that has prompted a steady stream of black folk to settle on Salt Spring since the late 1850s.

Inspired by Anderson and the youngster, I braved my long-standing fear of water and learned how to swim during my sojourn on the island.

Stitching together stories of strife and success

Patch of the past. Irreplaceable quilt was born of necessity, but sewn with soul



SHAUNTAY GRANT
For Metro Canada

I'd probably seen my great-grandmother's quilt a dozen times before noticing the teal pocket gently set against a blue and white tweed.

"My sister's coat," my grandmother explained. "And those are old dresses," she added, signaling a colourful border lined with red, pink and mauve patterns.

"And the yellow?" I wanted to know.

"That was a winter top," she said. "These are all old winter dresses, coats, skirts…"

"And the brown stains?"

"Smoke stains. From when the old house burned down — the second time."

And suddenly my great-grandmother's quilt was more than just worn fabric. It was a time capsule. A memory book. A diary full of stories.

The quilt itself is just 65 years young, but the story goes back much further. As far back as the migration of American Black Loyalists and Jamaican Maroons to Nova Scotia in the latter part of the 1700s. And as far back as the wave of Black Refugees who — like the Loyalists and Maroons — settled in rural Nova Scotia after the War of 1812. Like her ancestors, my great-grandmother Annie Simmonds (1901–1986) encountered many hardships — set against a backdrop of marginalization and racial segregation, the people of her community (North Preston, Nova Scotia) were faced with brutal winters, unwanted soils and a lack of basic needs like food, clothing, and adequate shelter.



Shauntay Grant's great-grandmother's quilt. PROVIDED

Wrapped in remembrance

"Of the many winter quilts my great-grandmother would have stitched to warm her children, this single heirloom is all that remains."

Shauntay Grant

"The houses were very cold back then," remembers my grandmother. "Made of slab boards, tar paper and sealed with cardboard."

My grandmother says these old patch quilts were the best defence against the cold climate. And of the many winter quilts my great-grandmother would have stitched to warm her children, this single heirloom is all that remains.

And it's full of stories.

My grandmother tells me she remembers watching her mother piece the quilt together, sitting on a kitchen chair near the woodstove, the fabric just spilling from her lap. And she remembers how the cat got lost inside the lining, and how her mother almost stitched the quilt shut not realizing that "Fluffy" was trapped inside.

My grandmother herself has carried on this tradition of making quilts, and hers are beautiful patterns with stories of their own.

But none touches me so much as this old winter quilt come from necessity; knotted with yarn and slanted around the border; indifferent to pattern and symmetry; with heaps of stories wrapped up inside.

SPORTS 4

Frk embracing the moment with the Mooseheads

Czech him out. Right-winger has regained old form after early-season struggles



ANDREW RANKIN
andrew.rankin@metronews.ca

When Martin Frk signed a three-year entry level contract with the Detroit Red Wings last July he immediately felt the weight of the world on his shoulders.

"All I could think about was trying to get to the NHL," said the 19-year-old Czech Republic forward. "I put so much pressure on myself."

It translated on the ice.

The right-winger struggled to find his offensive game, scoring just three times in his first 11 outings this season. After starting the campaign on the first line with Nathan MacKinnon and Jonathan Drouin, Frk also found himself demoted to second- and third-line duties.

Mooseheads head coach Dominique Ducharme and Detroit Red Wings management then reached out to the six-foot 203-pounder.

"They said don't put too much pressure on yourself, smile and have fun and everything will come, and keep on working hard," he said.

"Now I think only about Halifax."

Frk eventually found his way back on the top line. He's also gone on to set career highs in goals (23) and assists (36) this season. A 14-game point streak also just ended in Tuesday's 7-0 win over the P.E.I. Rocket.

All along Ducharme knew he had it in him.

"He can skate, he's got great hands, an unbelievable shot, he's strong and strong on the puck," said Ducharme. "He's a world-class player. He's got a shot to make the NHL and to be a good NHL player."

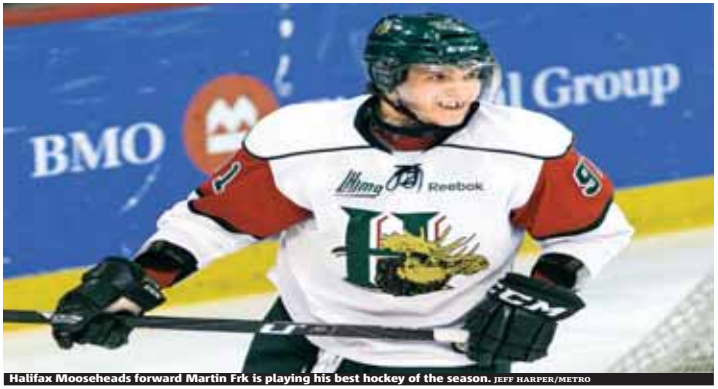
He's focused solely on the Mooseheads now. By being his best every day, the NHL will come, he insists.

In the meantime, he admits it's a blessing playing alongside Drouin and MacKinnon.

"I really like Jo because he likes to pass a lot so I can shoot," he said with a laugh.

Cataractes, Wildcats visit

The Halifax Mooseheads will welcome the Shawinigan Cataractes at the Metro Centre on Friday at 7 p.m., and the Moncton Wildcats on Saturday at 7 p.m.



Halifax Mooseheads forward Martin Frk is playing his best hockey of the season. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Levett setting standard with team-first approach



Tyrone Levett METRO FILE

Tyrone Levett longs for the type of home crowds the Halifax Rainmen drew during last year's playoffs.

The Rainmen forward was with the club then when it managed to make it all the way to the National Basketball League of Canada final against the London Lightning. In the process the Rainmen drew a healthy following of Metro Centre fans.

The Rainmen (16-15) have struggled to find consistency this season and have spent the majority of the year fine-tuning their roster. Attendance has dropped as well.

Quoted

"At the end of the day, it's all about winning and playing your part to make sure that happens."
Tyrone Levett

"I would love to see the Metro Centre packed from top to bottom," said Levett. "Last year it was a great environment; it comes down to winning."

The Rainmen are in the midst of a three-game winning streak and are hoping to string four in a row for the first time this season when they welcome the Saint John Mill Rats to the Metro Centre on Sunday at 2 p.m.

"We're finally hitting that stride," said Levett.

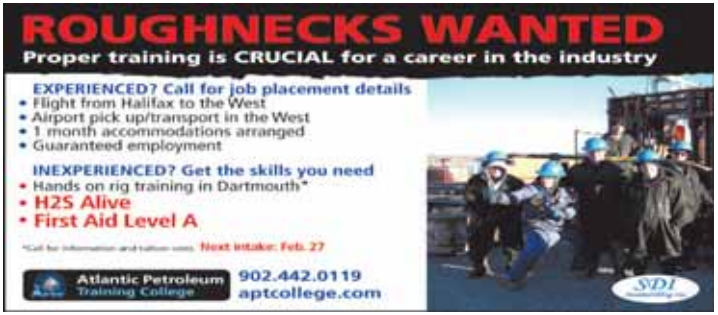
Levett has been called upon to be the leader and has taken on a more defensive role. Last year with the Rainmen he averaged 14.8 points, was a second-team all-NBL Canada selection in both the regular season and playoffs.

After being traded in the off-season he was reacquired in December and has since averaged 9.9 points per game.

Head coach Rob Spon says his veteran workhorse provides a rare combination of skill and leadership, which sometimes can be taken for granted. "He's our leader on the backcourt calling all the sets," said Spon. "He's the guy that get's our guys focused and gets the job done."

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO





Murder charges come as 'a shock': Paralympic CEO

Oscar Pistorius. Double-amputee sprinter heralded for bringing Paralympic Games to the forefront

The London Paralympics were the most successful Games to date, with millions of people buying tickets to events, and Oscar Pistorius was a big part of that.

On Thursday, the South African athlete who became the poster boy for Paralympic sport was charged with murder in the shooting death of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

"It was a shock for us," said Xavier Gonzalez, CEO of the International Paralympic committee.

"Right now, the most important thing is to send our deepest condolences to the families affected by this tragedy," said Gonzalez, who is in Toronto observing preparations for the Parapan Am Games that will be held there in 2015.

Pistorius, who had his lower legs amputated before he was a year old, won two gold medals and a silver at last year's Paralympic Games in London. But what drew even more attention is that this 26-year-old made sporting history by becoming the first double-amputee sprinter to compete in the Olympics. He reached the 400-metre semifinal and competed in the 4x400-metre relay.

"We'll need to wait to see how the police investigation goes," said Gonzalez. But he emphasizes that, to date, "Oscar has been a fantastic ambassador for our movement.

"He created momentum that, in some way, contributed to what happened in London."

The London Paralympics sold 2.7 million tickets, making it the third-largest sporting event in the world after the Olympics and World Cup soccer, he said. Beyond the spectators, the Games drew far more media coverage, particularly in Europe, and corporate sponsorship than previous events.

A Nike ad, featuring Pistorius in his green race suit and the tagline — "I am the bullet in the chamber. Just do it." — was removed from his personal website. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

The news out of South Africa "is not good for the Paralympics or sport in general. Oscar has become a hero with the accomplishments he's had on the track."
Martin Richard, head of communications at the Canadian Paralympic Committee

NBA

King James ends streak as Heat pound Thunder

LeBron James had 39 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists, and the Miami Heat trampled the Oklahoma City Thunder 110-100 in a Thursday-night showcase before the All-Star break.

Chris Bosh chipped in 20 points and 12 rebounds as the Heat won their sixth straight against the Thunder, dating back to last year's NBA Finals. Miami swept the season series after winning on its home court on Christmas Day, after taking the last four games of the Finals.

James was in position to continue his NBA-record run of games with at least 30 points and 60 per cent shooting to seven but missed from a couple steps beyond the 3-point line as the shot clock ran down with just over a minute left.

That dropped him to 14 for 24 in the game, or 58 per cent.

Kevin Durant had 40 points and eight rebounds for Oklahoma City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASCAR. Romance between drivers takes centre stage on media day

Brad Keselowski strolled through the Daytona 500 Club with his cellphone in one hand and a half-empty bottle in the other. Nope, not beer. Not this time.

Keselowski, the reigning NASCAR Sprint Cup champion, was his usual, laid-back, outspoken self during a daylong event filled with optimistic outlooks for the upcoming season.

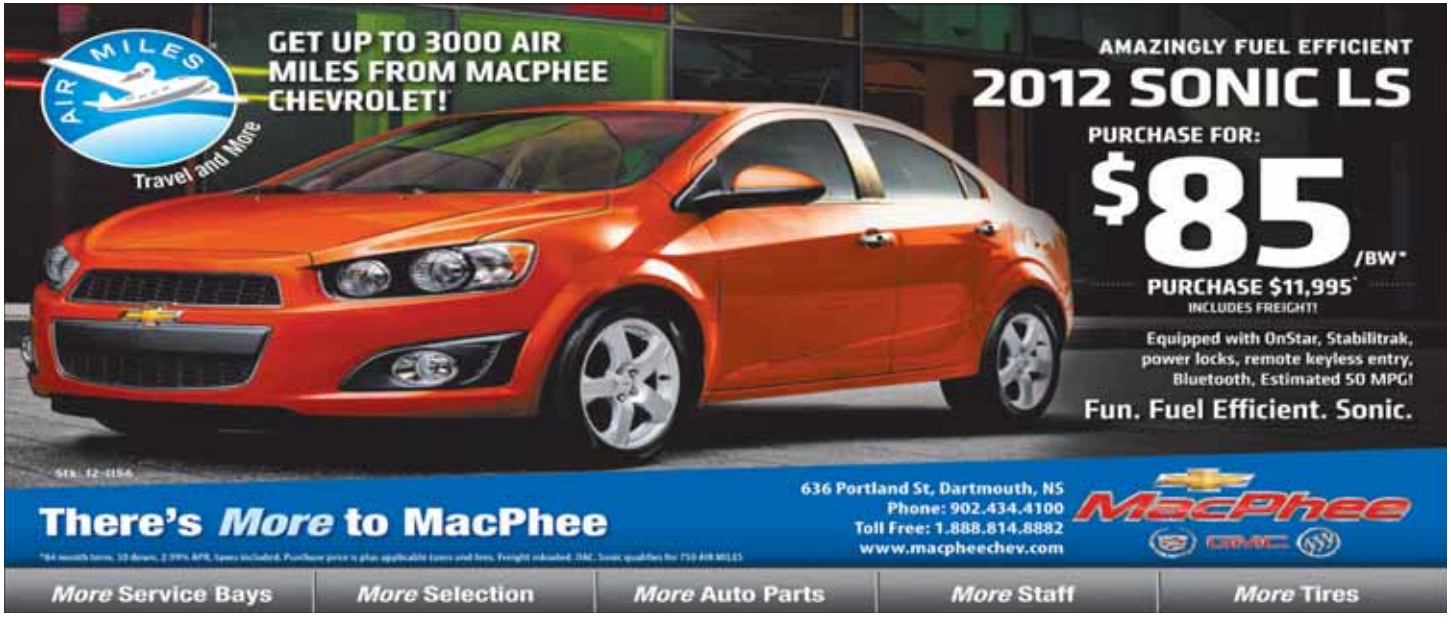
"If you drink enough orange juice, you can drink a lot of beer," said Keselowski, who memorably chugged away in Victory Lane after clinching his first Cup championship at Homestead-Miami Speedway in November.

Three months later, he was fielding questions about defending his title, tweeting from his race car and the budding relationship between competitors Danica Patrick and Ricky Stenhouse Jr.

No surprise, the 50-plus drivers were asked a number of questions about the Patrick and Stenhouse saga — they announced they were dating last month.

"It will keep people looking and watching and curious as to what that dynamic is on the track, I'm sure.... We'll all be watching with great curiosity," five-time champion Jimmie Johnson said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Players mull cutproof protection

NHL. Reigning Norris Trophy winner's injury to Achilles has given the league a scare

Gruesome cuts like the one that ended Ottawa Senators defenceman Erik Karlsson's season are not new to hockey or any sport played on skates.

But when a Norris Trophy winner goes down after his Achilles tendon is nearly severed in half, it makes players around the NHL wonder if they should start wearing cut-proof socks and other equipment that may prevent such scary injuries.

The Karlsson injury was the talk of the league Thursday after Karlsson's left Achilles tendon was cut by a skate blade during a game against the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday night.

Senators general manager Bryan Murray said 70 per cent of Karlsson's tendon was cut as a result of the incident. Karlsson underwent surgery Thursday and recovery is expected to be at least three-to-four months, thus ending Karlsson's season.

Many players are already wearing cut-proof kevlar socks but a lot have either never tried them or don't like them.

"It's a tough call," said Karlsson's defence partner Marc Methot. "Most of us have never even tried them on before.

MIA

Karlsson's recovery time is expected to be at least three to four months.

- Karlsson was injured while being checked by Pittsburgh's Matt Cooke, who was not disciplined by the league.

"It certainly raises awareness now. I'm going to try them out."

Murray lamented some players are stubborn about their equipment even if it may prevent an injury.

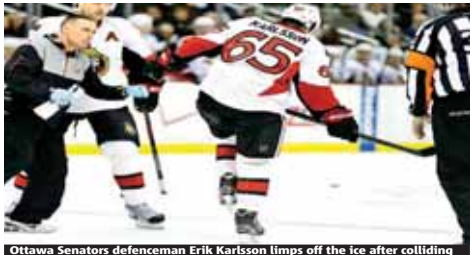
Several high-profile NHL players have missed significant time due to skate cuts.

Defencemen Kevin Bieksa of the Vancouver Canucks and Andrei Markov of the Montreal Canadiens both have had their legs sliced open by razor-sharp skates in recent seasons.

Both Buffalo Sabres goalie Clint Malarchuk in 1989 and Florida Panthers forward Richard Zednik in 2008 nearly died when arteries in their throats were slashed by errant skates.

NHL vice-president Kris King, whose duties include player safety, said the league has not looked at making cut-proof socks mandatory. But it has been encouraging teams to promote them to their players.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Ottawa Senators defenceman Erik Karlsson limps off the ice after colliding with Pittsburgh Penguin Matt Cooke in Pittsburgh on Wednesday. Karlsson will need surgery to repair his Achilles. GENE J. PUSKAR/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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75 Rossing Drive, Lower Sackville
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SELLER SAVED $7,538.25
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For those without a Metro, the forecast calls for "I dunno" with a slight chance of "huhhh?"
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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will have to make sacrifices in one area if you want to make progress in another. At work, try to get important people on your side because no matter how talented you happen to be, you can't do it all alone.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Whatever your plans, whatever your schedules, whatever your deadlines, it is essential that you take life at a slower, calmer pace today. Everything you need will come to you if you let it. Sit back and let it happen.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may not feel brave on the inside but try to look brave on the outside. Self-confidence is the key to success now and if you can convince people you've got it you'll get what it is you desire.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You may have to rely on partners and colleagues a bit more than usual over the next 24 hours. That means revealing information you might prefer to keep to yourself. Make sure you confide only in those you trust.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You cannot possibly be the best at everything — no, really! And the sooner you stop trying, the better. You will achieve more over the next few days if you stick to the two or three things you are exceptionally good at.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You need to get serious about something of a creative or artistic nature. You may think you are serious about it already but deep down you know you have been holding back. As from today, you must give it your all.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You don't have to suffer in silence if someone has cheated you in some way. Shout out loud about it. Kick up a fuss. If you don't make an issue of it now they will take advantage of you again later on.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Let others have their say first then, when they have finished, point out the flaws in their argument. You may not win many friends but you will make it clear you are not going to be taken in so easily.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Saturn's influence demands that you start thinking seriously about ways to make ends meet and make your money go further. In a nutshell, you must spend less or earn more. Ideally, of course, you need to do both.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Strive to make a positive impression on people in positions of authority. The more you can show them that you are on top of your game, the more likely it is they will turn to you when there is a promotion on offer.

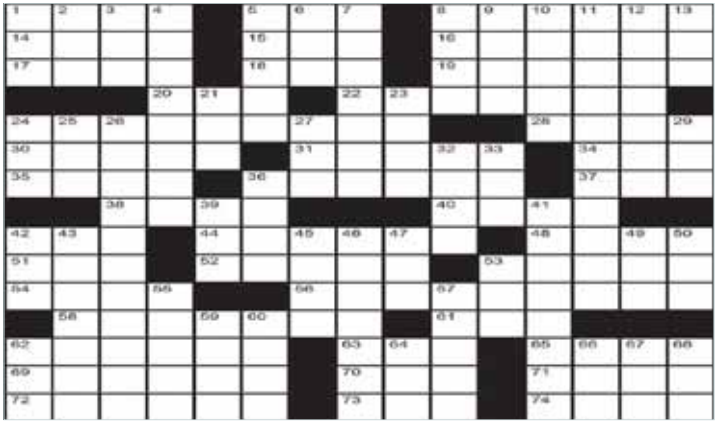
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You seem to be struggling with some serious questions about your place in the world. You certainly have not found the right answers yet. Don't worry, it's only a matter of time before it all clicks into place.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
People are looking to you to take a lead and you must not let them down. Today's Mars-Pluto link will endow you with loads of energy and no end of self-confidence. You'll need them for the tasks ahead.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

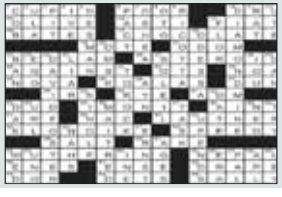
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. National __ of Canada Day
5. Prefix to 'metrical'
8. Takes on the role of: 2 wds.
14. Copy of an orig.
15. My own, in Latin
16. "Wow!", in Australia
17. Abominable snowman
18. Grass appendage
19. The Grand __
20. Prefix to 'lead'
22. Marc __, painter of I and the Village (1911, oil on canvas)
24. "Rise Up" by The __ Club
28. Earth
30. Anoint, archaically
31. Lathers
34. Dundee denial
35. __ poker
36. Baseball great Mickey
37. Explosive letters
38. Sporty brand
40. Mil. stockpile
42. UK record label
44. Deceive
48. One who must pay
51. Philosopher, __-tzu
52. Drive, do this
53. Two down, __ __ go
54. Mailed a letter
56. Phar Lap, for one
58. Creeks
61. Roadie's haul
62. Make _ __ (Reception tradition)
63. Meditation sounds
65. Receptive
69. Self-evident fact
70. 'The Science Guy', Bill __
71. Former currency in Italy
72. Mr. Safer, Canadian correspondent on "60 Minutes"
73. Mr. Mineo
74. Wool

Down
1. Use a pan
2. Kathie Gifford link
3. Inclined
4. House of __ (Monaco's royal family)
5. NBC series starring "American Idol" alum Katharine McPhee
6. Archery bow wood
7. New Brunswick city
8. Medieval silk and gold fabric
9. Rugged cliff
10. Singer Ms. Turner's
11. Niagara Falls lookout structure: 2 wds.
12. __ harp (It sounds in the wind)
13. Equivalent word [abbr.]
21. Arctic __ cap
23. Warmth
24. Not: French
25. Social bug
26. Classic rock band's venture, perhaps: 2 wds.
27. Can. neighbor
29. Allow
32. Theatrical work
33. Theological sch.
36. Convene
39. "Footloose" (1984) star ...his initials-sharers
41. Classic board game
42. Pro golfer Ernie
43. "Let Your Backbone Slide" by __ Fresh-Wes
45. Condition
46. Causes
47. Rainbow shape
49. Aliens, for short
50. Caviar
53. Electrical resistance unit
55. Hiker's snack, __ mix
57. Painter's stand
59. Being, in Latin
60. 1996 to 2001 Canadian series, "Wind __ __ Back"
62. Cash dispenser, commonly
64. "Lady Marmalade" co-singer
66. 1980s starlet Ms. Zadora
67. "To __ is human..."
68. Book publisher, __ A. Talese

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	1		7					
		2		1				5
		4		5	9	7	1	
		8						2
	2	3		7		9	6	
5						8		
	9	6	4	3		1		
3				8		5		
					6		3	

Yesterday's Sudoku











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PHOTO: THINKSTOCK

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JEREMY HOTZ, *Feb. 24*

Comedian Jeremy Hotz brings his Magical Misery Tour to the Dalhousie Arts Centre.



DON MCLEAN, *Feb. 27*

American Pie singer Don McLean will play at the Dalhousie Arts Centre.



PHOTO: MIKE LAWRIE/GETTY IMAGES

CELTIC WOMAN, *Feb. 28*

The all-female Irish music ensemble Celtic Woman will perform at the Metro Centre.



PHOTO: NEILSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES

THE SAVOUR FOOD & WINE SHOW, *Feb. 28*

The Savour Food & Wine Show celebrates its 10th anniversary and will take place at the Cunard Centre.



PHOTO: THINKSTOCK



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